

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Visitors to The Electric Gallery on Saturday, November 16, 1974 will have the opportunity to meet artist Robert Watts, composer David Behrman and videographer Bob Diamond, at the opening of their very exciting sound-environment exhibition.

~~CANADIAN/AMERICAN SKY~~

(a work in progress)

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Robert Watts: Born in 1923, lives and works in Bangor, Pa. Since 1946 he has exhibited widely throughout Europe and the United States. The focus of his artistic endeavors has ranged from abstract expressionistic painting to mixed media performance to his present exploration in the area of sound and light.

"Since 1965, clouds, sounds, indeed the whole phenomenology of the natural environment has pervaded most aspects of my work. This present work (which I call 'Cloud Machine') has been evolving since 1966 when at Rutgers University we made some experiments with a sound device that reacted to changing light intensity on a movie screen."

At that time Watts saw applications to his interest in clouds and the changing light in the sky. He enlisted the help of David Behrman (audio solid state) and Bob Diamond (video solid state) to expedite his project.

Bob Diamond was able to produce a video system that could scan the clouds as they move by and produce a control voltage proportional to the brightness of the cloud at the scan point. This voltage is used to vary the environmental qualities of a space. Sound by David Behrman is produced by eight banks of audio-range function generators, four to a bank, each of which is tuned to a pre-selected four-part chord made up of pure modal or microtonal intervals.

The outputs from Bob Diamond's video analyzer are used to create an interweaving of slowly shifting, multi-layered harmony that parallels the movement of the clouds. Any harmonic change corresponds to a minute change in light of a cross hair in the video image.

According to David Behrman: "The technical means by which the passing clouds can be used to make music around a listener are of the 70's but the spirit of this project might be closer to the old outdoor wind and water driven musical instruments of Southeast Asia and Polynesia."

Like sailing, the music is weather-dependent.

This fascinating exhibition will continue until Sunday December 1, 1974. Gallery hours are 10:30 to 5:30, Tuesday through Saturday, Sunday 1:00 to 4:00, closed Monday.

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For further information;

Jane Corcoran
Sam Markle

925-4441
495-6900

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Bob Watts, Bob Diamond,
David Behrman